

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00663 111439Z

53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P R 111405Z MAY 76
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3284
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

S E C R E T TRIPOLI 0663

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, LY, US
SUBJECT: QADHAFI INTERVIEWED BY CBS-TV

1. CBS CORRESPONDENT JOHN SHEAHAN AND CAMERMAN
ARRIVED TRIPOLI MAY 7 TO DO A STORY ON LIBYA.
INITIATIVE, ACCORDING TO SHEAHAN, CAME FROM CBS
EDITORS WHO BELIEVED LIBYA MUCH UNDERREPORTED.
LIBYAN CHARGE IN WASHINGTON, GASHUT, REPORTEDLY
STRONGLY ENDORSED IDEA.

2. AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF FILMING AGRICULTURAL AND
HOUSING PROJECTS, THE TEAM WAS SUMMONED TO RCC HEAD-
QUARTERS FOR QADHAFI INTERVIEW WHICH LASTED ABOUT AN
HOUR. SHEAHAN UNWILLING TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF
INTERVIEW BUT DID CHARACTERIZE QADHAFI AS NERVOUS,
SOMEWHAT UNCONTROLLED AND SEEMINGLY EAGER FOR BETTER
RELATIONS WITH U.S. AT CORRESPONDENT'S URGING MUCH OF
INTERVIEW CONDUCTED IN ENGLISH WHICH QADAHFI
HANDLED FAIRLY WELL. ACCORDING TO SHEAHAN ONLY NEW
ITEM FROM QAHFHFI WAS STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO
QUERY THAT LIBYA DID NOT DEMAND DESTRUCTION OF
ISRAEL BUT MERELY LARGE SCALE RETURN OF
PALESTINIAN REFUGEES.

3. WITHOUT ACCESS TO THE FULL INTERVIEW UNABLE TO
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JUDGE WHETHER QADHAFI'S REMARKS ON ISRAEL BREAKS

ANY NEW GROUND. HOPEFULLY DEPARTMENT MAY FIND WAY
TO SEE TRANSCRIPTS. IN ANY EVENT, GRANTING INTERVIEW
TO US-TV APPEARS TO BE ANOTHER INDICATION THAT
QADHAFI FACIUG POLITICAL PROBLEMS AT HOME AND
HOSTILITY FROM NEIGHBORS IS SEEKING TO IMPROVE
LIBYAN IMAGE ABROAD.
CARLE

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Message Attributes

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